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General

Uruguay, located on the SE side of South America, is bounded on the NE by Brazil, on the S by the Rio de la Plata, on the W by Argentina, and on the SE by the Atlantic Ocean. It has a coast about 300 miles long, including the N shore of the Rio de la Plata. The shores are mostly fronted by sandy beaches, separated by rocky points.

Generally, the country is composed of rolling grassy plains and low hills. The land is well-watered by several rivers.

The climate is temperate with mild winters and warm summers. The wettest period is from March to June, but there is really no dry season.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Uruguayan peso, consisting of 100 centesimos.

Government



Flag of Uruguay

Uruguay is a republic and has a presidential form of government, with a bicameral legislative system. Executive power is vested in the President, who is the chief of state and head of government, and is directly elected to a 5-year term. The Congress, directly elected for 5-year terms, consists of a 30-member Senate and a 99-member Chamber of Deputies.

The legal system is based on Spanish civil law. The capital is Montevideo.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Carnaval (two days)	Varies
Holy Thursday	Varies
Good Friday	Varies
Desembarco de los 33 Orientales	April 19
Labor Day	May 1
Natalicio de Artigas	June 19
Jura de la Constitucion	July 18
Christmas Day	December 25

Industries

The major industries are livestock raising and livestock product processing. Other industries include textiles, footwear, cement, petroleum refining, fishing, forestry, wine, and automobile manufacturing.

The principal crops are wheat, oats, barley, maize, sugarbeet, sugar cane, potatoes, and rice. Fruits include peaches, oranges, tangerines, and pears.

Languages

The official language is Spanish. Brazileiro, a mixture of Portuguese and Spanish, is spoken in the region bordering Brazil.

Regulations

Vessels in all ports must hoist the Uruguayan flag. It is recommended that the prescribed times for raising and lowering this courtesy flag be correctly established in order to avoid fines.

Oil pollution regulations are strictly enforced. Among other measures, vessels are prohibited from discharging or dumping oil within fifty miles of the coast.

Vessel Traffic System

The Maritime Movement Control and Information System applies to all vessels entering or leaving Uruguayan waters. It encompasses the area W of longitude 50°50'W and SW of a line bearing 128° from **Chui Light** (33°45'S., 53°22'W.).

The system is divided into various zones, each containing a Port Control Center concerned with control and information within a port or within its surrounding area up to a distance of 50 miles. Information on each Port Control Center is given in the accompanying table.

Maritime Movement Control and Information System Reporting Points				
Port Control Center	Call sign	Zone	Geographic area	Reporting points
La Paloma	La Paloma Control	Kilo	East of longitude 54°15'W	Abeam of Chui Light Abeam of Cabo Polonio Light Abeam of Cabo Santa Maria
La Paloma	La Paloma Control	Lima	Port area	Abeam of Port Jetty Light
Punta del Este	Punta del Este Control	Golf	Between longitudes 54°15'W and 55°30'W	Abeam of Isla de Lobos Abeam of Punta del Este
Punta del Este	Punta del Este Control	Hotel	Port area	—
Piriopolis	Piriopolis Control	Tango	Port area	—
Puerto del Buceo	CWC47	Oscar	Between longitudes 56°00'W and 56°09'W north of latitude 34°57'S	—

Maritime Movement Control and Information System Reporting Points				
Port Control Center	Call sign	Zone	Geographic area	Reporting points
Montevideo	Montevideo Port Control	Alfa	Outer zone between longitudes 55°30'W and 57°21'W	<p>Middle Channel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abeam of Graf Spee Lighted Buoy 2. Abeam of La Panela Light 3. Uruguayan Banco Ortiz Lighted Buoy 4. Argentinian Banco Ortiz Lighted Buoy <p>North Channel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abeam of Graf Spee Lighted Buoy 2. Abeam of La Panela Light 3. Abeam of Jesus Maria Lighted Buoy 4. Abeam of Arazati Lighted Buoy 5. Abeam of Punta Rosario <p>East of the Access Channel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abeam of Punta Brava 2. Abeam of Isla de Flores
Montevideo	Montevideo Port Control	Bravo	Port area between longitudes 56°10'W and 56°19'W north of latitude 35°01'S	<p>Abeam of Fairway Entrance Lighted Buoy</p> <p>Abeam of the jetty</p>
Santiago Vasquez	CWC38	Papa	Between longitudes 56°20'W and 56°40'W north of latitude 34°56'S	—
Puerto Sauce	CWC27	Uniform	Outer zone	—
Colonia	Colonia Control	Charlie	Outer zone	<p>Abeam of Punta Rosario</p> <p>Abeam of Puerto Sauce</p> <p>Abeam of Roca Barriles</p> <p>Abeam of Puerto Colonia del Sacramento</p> <p>Abeam of Isla Farallon</p> <p>North end of Barra de San Pedro</p> <p>Abeam of Punta Martin Chico</p>
Colonia	Colonia Control	Delta	Port area	—
Carmelo	CWC22	Quebec	Outer zone	Abeam of Carmelo
Nueva Palmiro	CWC31	Echo	Outer zone	—
Nueva Palmiro	CWC31	Foxtrot	Port area	—
Fray Bentos	Frey Bentos Control	India	Outer zone	<p>Abeam of Km 46 (Punta Amarilla)</p> <p>Abeam of Km 61 (Riacho Yaguari)</p> <p>Abeam of Km 83 (Paso Barrizal)</p> <p>Abeam of Puerto Fray Bentos</p> <p>Passing Ponte General San Martin</p> <p>Abeam of Km 122 (Nuevo Berlin)</p> <p>Abeam of Km 140 (Isla Roman)</p>
Fray Bentos	Frey Bentos Control	Juliet	Port area	—
Paysundu	Paysundu Control	Mike	Outer zone	<p>Abeam of Km 140 (Isla Roman)</p> <p>Abeam of Km 160 (San Javier)</p> <p>Abeam of Km 183 (Concepcion del Uruguay)</p> <p>Abeam of N end of Isla Punta Almiron</p> <p>Passing Ponte General Artigas</p> <p>Abeam of Punta Piedras</p> <p>Abeam of Arroyo Malo</p>

Maritime Movement Control and Information System Reporting Points				
Port Control Center	Call sign	Zone	Geographic area	Reporting points
Paysundu	Paysundu Control	November	Port area	—
Salto	CWC37	Romeo	Outer zone	—
Salto	CWC37	Sierra	Port area	—

The following procedures are in effect for the Maritime Movement Control and Information System:

1. Vessels should contact the appropriate Port Control Center when entering each zone, giving the following information:

- Position (latitude and longitude).
- Course.
- Speed.
- Maximum draft.
- ETA at the pilot boarding position.
- Other information that may be relevant to the navigation of the vessel.

2. The following information should also be reported to the Port Control Center:

- Any accident, fire, or damage on board the vessel.
- Assistance rendered to other vessels in distress or difficulty.
- Unmarked or uncharted hazards to navigation.
- Serious reduction in visibility.

3. Vessels should maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF channel 16 when within the zone. If a vessel cannot maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 16, they should

use VHF channel 11 or VHF channel 13 and advise the Port Control Center accordingly.

4. Clearance should be obtained from the Port Control Center prior to any movements. This clearance expires automatically after 15 minutes.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is QUEBEC (+3). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Lauro Muller 1776, Montevideo, 11200.

The mailing address is APO AA 34035.

U. S. Embassy Uruguay Home Page

<http://www.embeeuu.gub.uy>